

**TPO Technical Committee Minutes
March 13, 2018
9:00 a.m.
Small Assembly Room
City County Building
400 Main Street
Knoxville, TN**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Technical Committee met on March 13, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building in Knoxville, TN. Vice Chair Brian Boone presided and called the meeting to order. It was determined that there was a quorum. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| *Wayne Blasius | City of Oak Ridge |
| *Don Brown | ETDD, <i>for Terry Bobrowski</i> |
| *Brian Boone | City of Maryville |
| *Beth Collins | City of Lenoir City |
| *Rich DesGroseilliers | Lakeway MTPO |
| *Deanna Flinchum | Knoxville Commuter Pool |
| *Gerald Green | Metropolitan Planning Commission |
| *Jim Hagerman | City of Knoxville |
| *Jerome Joiner | TDOT, Region 1 |
| *Cindy Pionke | Knox County |
| *Jack Qualls | City of Loudon and Loudon County |
| *Melissa Roberson | Knoxville Area Transit |
| *Blake Sartin | Metro Knoxville Airport Authority |
| *Darryl Smith | Town of Farragut |
| *Andrew Sonner | City of Alcoa |
| *Bill Taylor | Anderson County |
| TPO Staff | |
| Partner Agency Staff | |
| Members of the Public | |
| *voting members | |

1. Motion to Approve February 13, 2018 TPO Technical Committee Minutes

Item Summary: Approval of the February 13, 2018 TPO Technical Committee Minutes.

A Motion was made by Cindy Pionke and seconded by Gerald Green to approve the February 13, 2018 TPO Technical Committee Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to Recommend Approval of a Resolution to Amend the FY2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Item Summary: TIP amendments resulting from the Interim FY2017-2020 TIP STBG/TAP Call for Projects. All projects are exempt from air quality conformity. Staff recommends approval

Discussion: Elizabeth Watkins reviewed the proposed TIP amendments noting they stem from the recent Call-For-Projects soliciting low cost and more easily implemented projects. Member jurisdictions were also asked to bring forward any existing projects that required additional funds so that any amendments to the TIP for those projects could be done at the same time. In total, these initiatives resulted in 16 proposed amendments. Of the eleven applications received, ten were for new multimodal projects and one was for an existing project that was moved up. They break down into four transit capital investments projects, two greenway projects, four intersection improvements projects and one lighting project. Ms. Watkins reviewed the STBG and TAP funding allocated subsequent to these amendments for FY2017 - 2020. She briefly touched on each proposed project also noting that there was some shifting of groupings and projects to remain in financial constraint, also serving to spend down our STBG balance and reduce the amount of TAP funds on the books as these funds expire after 4 years. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/mar18/interim TIP projects amend.pdf>

A Motion was made by Gerald Green and seconded by James Hagerman to recommend approval of a Resolution to amend the FY2017 - 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Motion carried unanimously.

3. TDOT Pellissippi Parkway (SR-162) Traffic and Safety Update

Item Summary: Mr. Vatter will present an overview of issues related to growth in development and associated traffic volumes and their impact on the Pellissippi Parkway corridor from I-40 to Solway. Planning for short and long term improvements to the corridor to address safety and capacity issues will also be discussed.

Growth and Development in Hardin Valley

Discussion: As a precursor to Nathan Vatter's presentation, Liz Albertson, MPC Staff, gave an overview of the Northwest Knox County Sector trends (which includes Hardin Valley) including population growth, residential building activity, employment centers and Pellissippi State Community College enrollment. This has been the fastest growing sector eight out the last eleven years. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/mar18/hardin_valley_growth.pdf

Discussion: Nathan Vatter, Region 1 Traffic Engineer, TDOT, gave an overview of the planning efforts for State Route 162. His presentation reviewed past feasibility and needs assessments studies, traffic volumes and projected growths, crash pattern history and LOS, proposed developments and impacts, and current and future TDOT projects. He briefly touched on several related Knox County projects in the area that will help reduce current issues especially with regards to access. Mr. Vatter closed touching on planning for interim projects and long term improvements. He then entertained questions and comments from Committee members. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/mar18/SR-162 TDOT update.pdf>

A Motion was made by Jack Qualls and seconded by Gerald Green to support safety and access improvements on SR-162. The Motion carried unanimously.

4. Knox County School Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Item Summary: Knox County has been investing in pedestrian safety improvements around several schools. Ms. Pionke will discuss how project locations and treatments were selected, and lessons learned from implementation.

Discussion: Cindy Pionke, Knox County Engineering & Public Works, gave an update on Knox County's pedestrian safety improvements implemented since their 2013-2014 study, a Walk-to-School prioritization analysis.

The second phase of that study focused on schools in the unincorporated parts of Knox County, and out of those thirty five schools, this phase addressed the top fourteen. She discussed the projects at Cedar Bluff Elementary and Middle Schools (ultimately their largest focus area), Bluegrass Elementary and West Valley Middle Schools in detail noting all of these projects are in Parent Responsibility Zones. She closed touching on the cost of the improvements.

Committee members shared related experiences in their jurisdictions. The presentation is available online and can be found here:

<https://knoxtrans.org/meetings/agendas/tech/mar18/knoxco-school-ped-safety-improv.pdf>

5. Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Obligations

Item Summary: Staff will review the unobligated apportionments of the STBG program made available to the Knoxville Regional TPO. Tennessee has the largest balance of MPO STBG balance in the United States. As of February 2018, Knoxville STBG balance was the lowest of the four large MPOs at \$48 million.

Discussion: Jeff Welch, following up on last month's workshop on our planning area's STBG fund balances, shared a letter received by the TPO Executive Board from TDOT Commissioner Schroer summarizing those balances. He noted all of the MPO's statewide received a similar letter. He then noted the TPO is moving forward with reducing our STBG fund balances referencing today's TIP amendments as an example of those efforts. Mr. Welch also noted staff will continue to update the Technical Committee and Executive Board on a quarterly basis

6. Other Business

- Executive Board meeting Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Technical Committee meeting Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Small Assembly room of the City County Building.
- Next Active Knox Speaker: Public event with Jana Lynott, senior strategic policy adviser for the Livable Communities Team in AARP's Public Policy Institute, will be on April 24 at Bridgewater Place. Doors open at 5:30 pm, program begins 6 pm. Ms. Lynott will also give a brief presentation before the TPO Executive Board at their regular meeting on April 25.
- Jeff Welch noted Elizabeth Watkins will be leaving the TPO at the end of this week to join FHWA, Tennessee Division in Nashville. Mr. Welch wished her well on behalf of the TPO. He noted Craig Leubke, an experienced planner from Indiana, will be starting April 2nd and will be overseeing the TIP.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Don Brown and seconded by Darryl Smith to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.